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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

A Fear-ful Event

Has it really been more than two years since Marvel's last big event?

Yes indeed—***Secret Invasion,*** the last major Marvel event storyline, wrapped up in early 2009. While there have been thematic storylines (such as ***Dark Reign, Siege,*** and ***The Heroic Age)*** and "franchise events" ***(Messiah War, World War Hulks, Shadowland, Chaos War),*** Marvel has intentionally steered clear of the major miniseries-and-numerous tie-in event... until now.

And ***Fear Itself*** promises to be worth the wait!

Since initially announcing the event, Marvel has kept mum on the details. With ***Fear Itself*** just over the comics-release horizon, writer/mastermind *Matt Fraction* talked about the project, its focus, its origins, and its importance in the Marvel Universe.

In early March, Fraction and Marvel began to break the wall of silence that surrounded ***Fear Itself.*** "I just came back from a con where we were doing a panel where folks clearly didn't think we were going to be tossing out any red meat. So, when some guy came up and asked what ***Fear Itself*** was," Fraction said. "I said that the story begins when the Red Skull discovers that Odin *wasn't* the All-Father. That announcement caused a room of 250 people to gasp—which was completely amazing.

"That's the root of ***Fear Itself:*** Odin may or may not be the All-Father. The Red Skull frees an ancient Norse deity who feeds on fear rather than faith or hope or awe or wonder; the deity transforms her into a near-god for her troubles, and the two of them set about waging war on earth.

"His goal is to bring fear out of everyone. As a result of the transformation, the Red Skull is more powerful than anyone has eve imagined; even worse, we learn that Odin may not be the man in charge, and that shakes up Thor's world. Thor has to choose between being a man or being a god.

"Then there's Steve Rogers, who forced to choose between being a frightened man or the ultimate soldier determined to do his duty no matter what."

Fraction is determined that readers who sign on for ***Fear Itself*** will get their money's worth in each and every issue of the seven-part series. "When we're done, much like ***Civil War,*** you'll be able to look at each of these seven issues and point to some big event, some major game-changing occurrence in each issue of ***Fear Itself.*** I know that we live on hyperbole, and every thirty days we blow the world up to sell stickers and t-shirts or whatever, but I can honestly say that this is the biggest story Marvel has done since ***Civil War...*** if not even bigger!

"We're determined to make this an event worth readers' time and money. We keep hearing that readers want stories that matter, stories that count—well, ask no more. This is it! We're setting the tone and tempo for the next year of stories, if not beyond. Fear Itself is a capital-E epic, and I can't believe I'm getting the chance to tell this story—when it's all said and done you'll look at the thing and be amazed one guy got away with it all.

"Each issue of ***Fear Itself*** delivers some kind of stunning occurrence. I think that we're going to come out of the blocks pretty strong, and I hope that more people will come on board the further we go, because they're going to hear about the amazing events in each issue. As we build this crazy momentum, people will want to check this out to see what we're doing, and to find out what everyone is talking about!

And when we get to the end—well, you won't believe that Marvel let one guy write a story like this! This is the sort of thing that we think everyone will be talking about. We have the ending that an event of this magnitude deserves—absolutely!"

Is the Red Skull the only villain who gains new powers at the hands of the deity of fear? "She's the first of 'the Worthy,'" Fraction said." The reveals of who these people are include some big bads that we all know and love to hate— and there will be some stunners too. I hope. A major element of the second issue is the revelation of who the worthy are and why they are. By the end of the first issue, though, you'll understand what is happening and have a good idea of what is forthcoming."

While ***Fear Itself*** launches next week, the story's beginnings can be found in ***Fear Itself: Book of the Skull,*** already available in comic shops. "Ed Brubaker's ***Fear Itself*** prologue sets up some of this," Fraction said. "While you can understand ***Fear Itself*** without reading the prologue, it adds a lot of background info and sets up a lot of what is to come."

Readers don't have to read the prologue and the various tie-ins to understand ***Fear Itself,*** however. "By design, we want this to be modular—we want readers to be able to opt in as much as they'd like. If all they want to do is enjoy the seven-issue ***Fear Itself*** series, they can do that," Fraction said.

"Everybody knows what it feels like to get ripped off by an event that doesn't give you all of the main event *in* the pages of the main event. In ***Fear Itself,*** you get a beginning, middle, and a very satisfying end even if you don't read a single crossover or tie-in or spinoff book. However, readers who want a larger experience will find plenty to choose from; they can follow whatever threads they're interested in, dealing with the Marvel Universe and its hundreds of characters. You want to read Spidey, then read Spidey; you like Iron Man, read the Iron Man tie-ins. There will be complete tales in each of those books as well, and they're designed to make sense even if you're not reading the core ***Fear Itself*** series.

"We have a ton of fireworks in our book, but our mandate has been to keep in mind that we want to deliver beginnings, middles, and ends, and we want to keep these stories satisfying to our readers. Even moreso than just being the guys who work at Marvel, we're fans ourselves, and we know that it's important for us to make sure that every aspect of ***Fear Itself*** is something that we'd like to read."

Who's overseeing all the tie-ins, making sure that they coordinate properly with the main series? "*Tom Brevoort,* first and foremost," Fraction said. "And all of editorial after him– there's a lot of communication. Tom and I are looking at this, talking about everything, and making sure the main book stays on target and the tie-ins make sense. We're getting to the point where we have address tiny issues–how did this character get from China in this story to Manhattan in this story, for instance. We want the smallest details to work; it's important that everything coordinate for those readers who want to go for the whole ***Fear Itself*** experience. So it's Tom and editorial. I like to think I help, but really, I'm sort of like the mascot on the team, y'know?"

Is Fraction personally coordinating the bigger story events with writers of the other Marvel series that will be affected by ***Fear Itself?*** "Definitely. *Ed Brubaker* and I speak constantly;' *Brian Bendis* and I speak constantly; the same goes for *Jonathan Hickman, Jason Aaron, Kieron Gillen...* And speaking of Jason and Kieron, I want to say that this event will involve the X-Men in a real way; ***Fear Itself*** is an inclusive event. In the past, we had Avengers-focused events, and we had X-Men focused events, but it was rare that a storyline involved *all* the key players from *all* of these franchises. ***Fear Itself*** will. The X-Men have as big a part in this. The Future Foundation will be a part of this as well—very much so, in fact.

Even though I'm still writing the last half of ***Fear Itself,*** we're already hard at work on the post-***Fear Itself*** Marvel Universe. I was having dinner with Brian last night and he put together what the Avengers tie-ins and post-***Fear Itself*** storylines will be, and that's a stunner."

Will every Marvel title feature Fear Itself tie-in story elements? "No, it's not a requirement or anything like that. Coming out of ***Siege,*** we had this strategy that we want don't want to make all of our books events books," Fraction said. "This has been an 'opt in if you want' event. We're very good at sharing the toys, but we also know that this has to be an event that can reach everyone. We don't want to force creators to abandon storylines they're invested in to force them to tell our story, so to speak.

"We also don't want you to have to have a degree in 'Marvelology' to understand what's going on here; by design, we want this to be an event that's accessible to everyone.

"For example, we're dealing with Captain America as an idea and an icon, with Steve Rogers as the man who became Captain America and with Bucky as the man who inherited the Captain America role; all three are a part of the story. This is very much about that legacy, adoptive father and adoptive son. With Sin being the daughter of the Red Skull, it's obviously about family legacies and ideals.

"What does Captain America mean in a place and time like today— a strangely fractious America that is quite different from the America that Cap knew during the Second World War, an America that seemed far more united? The icon means something different, and both Bucky and Cap have to deal with

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what that means. That is Cap's worst fear, and that's what he's dealing with as well."

In recent years, there's been an increasing reader concern with series lateness; can Fraction and artist ***Stuart Immonen*** keep the ***Fear Itself*** on track? "Let's not jinx anything!" Fraction joked. "So far, so good. I'm absolutely convinced that we can. I'm already past the halfway point—I'm finishing the fourth issue right now. As for Stuart—well, he's an inhuman machine when it'd comes to art!

"I will say that Stuart handles themes both big and small with equal brilliant skill. So far, the same six people who've had a chance to see these pages as they come in have been calling Stuart a genius; I'm ready to get this book out there into everyone's hands, so that the *whole world* can call him a genius! And it's not just Stuart—it's Stuart and *Wade von Grawbadger* and *Laura Martin*—the best team in comics, and this book shows just what they can do.

Is the time right for a major linewide event storyline? "Well, I just came from Emerald City Comic Con, one of the most amazing cons I've been to in three years, and the one thing I noticed was that everyone was talking about comics, and there was a lot of enthusiasm that has been missing for a while," Fraction said. "People are eager to find something to look forward to, and they're ready to invest in a big story, and I think that's what we're going to deliver here. Everyone at Marvel is excited about this, and fans are going to be excited as well once they see where this story is going."

Last month, there was some buzz that Marvel had plans to kill a character every quarter; does ***Fear Itself*** tie in to those plans? "I believe that *David Gabriel* was joking about that in a way, in that it's not a mandated policy that a character die every three months," Fraction said. "We don't have a character kill calendar or death clock or anything like that! But, umm, that said, some people don't make it out of ***Fear Itself***. This is the true test of the Heroic Age—it's a hard-fought battle, and as is the case in any hard-fought battle, there will be casualties."

With the emphasis on this new deity, as well as on Odin and Thor, will ***Fear Itself*** shape up an epic Asgardian story, or does all everyone on Marvel Earth need to be very afraid? "Earth is in the middle of everything in this story; the heroes and the people who inhabit the Marvel Universe are trapped in the middle of all this," Fraction asserted.

"The story has an Asgardian *focus*, of course, but it's not an Asgardian *story*. We're introducing a new character who only Odin has known about previously—well, maybe Odin and the Watcher, since he gives this guy the stink-eye , so he knows what's coming.

In ***Fear Itself***, humanity is trapped in the same way that some of the great myths chronicle the gods going to war and man paying the price; that's what is happening here. Odin confronts Thor with the question, 'Are you a god or are you a man?' That's the nature of what's going on here, but the events of the story affect *everyone* in the Marvel universe."

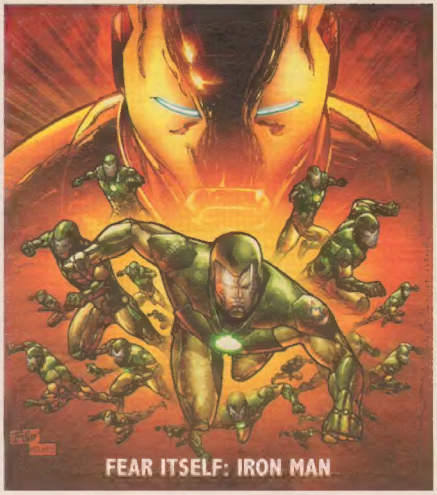
Will *Fear Itself* make lasting changes in the Marvel Universe? Can readers look forward to new characters in this storyline who will become major players in the future? "We will *definitely* see new characters and new books coming out of ***Fear Itself***, to continue the tone and the momentum that we're developing here. Storywise, this is a turning-point event that sets up a lot of stuff," Fraction explained.

"Thor and Captain America are the central figures of this story in the same way that ***Civil War*** was Iron Man and Captain America's story. Believe it or not, this all began with a call from Tom Brevoort to Ed and me, asking if we wanted to do a little miniseries featuring Thor and Cap to take advantage of all the interest that this summer's films are going to generate. From that grew this huge event."

In addition to chronicling the saga of ***Fear Itself***, Fraction is also writing a lead-in story arc—but readers won't see it for a couple of more months. "I'm also getting a chance to lay some groundwork for the series in ***Mighty Thor #1***, which launches in May. This kicks off a six-part story that takes place before ***Fear Itself***, much in the way my ***Iron Man*** book launched during ***Secret Invasion*** but took place before that story. And this book looks great—I've got *Olivier Coipel* drawing competitively, trying to outdo any work he's done before with this ***Thor*** series, and it's amazing. The first ***Mighty Thor*** arc is a six-part romp that will take us up to ***Fear Itself***; the next storyline will deal with the ramifications of ***Fear Itself***, as ***Mighty Thor #7*** launches the post-***Fear Itself*** era for Thor."

As ***Fear Itself*** has developed, Fraction has been very pleased with the support he's gotten from Marvel's editorial team. Throughout the transition in editors-in-chief, ***Fear Itself*** remained a major priority in Marvel's strategy for 2011 and beyond. "From the very beginning, *Joe Quesada* saw this as a much bigger story than Cap and Thor, and even though he's moved up from editor-in-chief, he's still a part of this. In fact, I got a round of notes from Joe just today!

"I also talk to *Axel Alonso* very regularly about this, and obviously I talk to *Tom Brevoort* a lot as well; they're two different people in the way they approach something like this, and their outlooks complement each other quite well. Axel is a story guy and Tom is a comic book guy—and I'm not trying to present any value judgements here, just to point out that they have different takes on everything, and as a result they've been very valuable to the process. ***Fear Itself*** began with Joe and ends with Axel; in a way, this is the story where the baton will be handed off!"

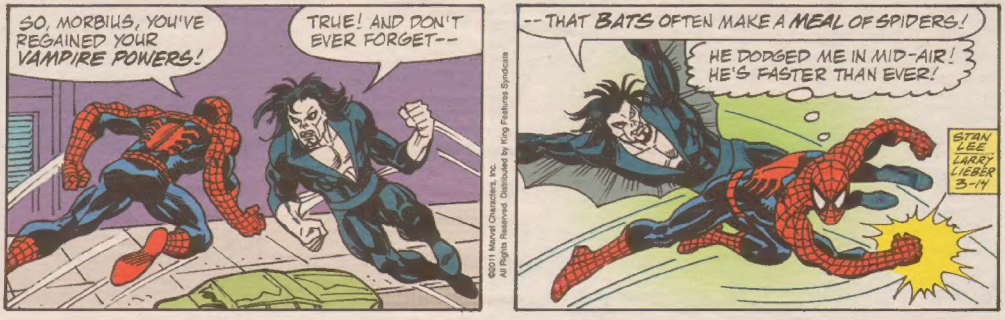


Fear Itself #1, a $3.99 comic featuring cover art by *Steve McNiven*, is slated for April 6th release. Marvel is also offering a number of variants to help launch the event, including a blank cover variant, a ***Fantastic Four Anniversary Variant***, a 1-for-25 *Stuart Immonen Variant*, a second 1-for-75 *Stuart Immonen Variant*, and an ultra-limited ComicsPRO Variant; as always, check with the folks at your friendly neighborhood comic shop for information on variant edition price and availability.

by Cliff Biggers

SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


SO, MORBIUS, YOU'VE REGAINED YOUR VAMPIRE POWERS!
TRUE! AND DON'T EVER FORGET--
--THAT BATS OFTEN MAKE A MEAL OF SPIDERS!
HE DODGED ME IN MID-AIR! HE'S FASTER THAN EVER!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-14
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I WARN YOU, SPIDER-MAN--
YOU CAN'T DEFEAT A VAMPIRE!
THANKS FOR THE TIP, MORBIUS--
--BUT YOU CAN'T BLAME A GUY FOR TRYING!
HNNNGH!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-15
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EDITORS Cliff Biggers
Ward Batty

Editorial Office
2770 Carillon Crossing
Marietta, GA 30066
cliffbig@comicshopnews.com

Business Office
3577-A Chamblee-Tucker Rd. #215
Atlanta, GA 30341
(770) 939-1364
wbatty@csnsider.com

www.csnsider.com
twitter.com/csnsider

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Flashpoint's Pros—and some Cons

Last month, DC revealed the titles of their ***Flashpoint*** limited series, and now they've revealed the creative teams for all fifteen of these projects. They've also revealed a few villainous surprises in the character lineup, as the list below reveals!

•***Flashpoint: Abin Sur—The Green Lantern.*** "He survived the crash!" Creative team: *Adam Schlagman,* writer; *Felipe Massafera,* artist; *Felipe Massafera,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Batman, Knight of Vengeance.*** "The Knight of Vengeance." Creative team: *Brian Azzarello,* writer. *Eduardo Risso,* artist. *Dave Johnson,* cover artist. (Yes, it's the ***100 Bullets*** team reunited!)

•***Flashpoint: Citizen Cold.*** "He loves someone he shouldn't." Creative team: *Scott Kolins,* writer, artist, and cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Deadman & the Flying Graysons.*** "For their last performance—an escape act!" Creative team: *J.T. Krul,* writer; *Mikel Janin,* artist; *Cliff Chiang,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Deathstroke & the Curse of the Ravager.*** "He will stop at nothing to find his lost treasure!" Creative team: *Jimmy Palmiotti,* writer; *Joe Bennett & John Dell,* artists and cover artists.

•***Flashpoint: Emperor Aquaman*** - "He will drown the world... *then rule it!*" Creative team: *Tony Bedard,* writer; *Ardian Syaf & Vicente Sifuentes,* artists and cover artists.

•***Flashpoint: Frankenstein & the Creatures of the Unknown #1.*** "They can't survive unless they find their maker!" Creative team: *Jeff Lemire,* writer; *Ibraim Roberson,* artist; *Doug Mahnke,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Hal Jordan*** - "He never got the ring." Creative Team: *Adam Schlagman,* writer. *Ben Oliver,* artist. *Rags Morales,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Kid Flash Lost Starring Bart Allen*** - "Where is he? Or should we say *when?*" Creative team: *Sterling Gates,* writer; *Oliver Nome,* artist; *Francis Manapul,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Legion of Doom*** - "Whatever happened to the world's greatest super-villains?" Creative team: *Adam Glass,* writer; *Rodney Buchemi & Jose Marzan,* artists; *Miguel Sepulveda,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Lois Lane and the Resistance*** - "She is ready to reveal the Amazons' secret!" Creative team - *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning,* writers; *Eddy Nunez,* artist; *Eddy Nunes & Sandra Hope,* cover artists.

•***Flashpoint: The Outsider.*** "He won't join the war! (It could dirty his new suit.)" Creative team: *James Robinson,* writer; *Javi Fernandez,* artist; *Kevin Nowlan,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Project Superman*** - "They experimented on him in a lab for years!" Creative team: *Scott Snyder & Lowell Francis,* writers; *Gene Ha,* art & cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Secret Seven.*** "One among them will betray them all!" Creative team: *Peter Milligan,* writer; *George Pérez & Scott Koblish,* artists; *George Pérez,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Wonder Woman & the Furies*** - "If she can't save the world—no one will!" Creative team: *Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning,* writers; *Scott Clark & David Beaty,* artists; *Ed Benes,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: World of Flashpoint.*** "Discover the world of ***Flashpoint.***" Creative team: *Rex Ogle,* writer; *Paulo Siqueira,* artist. *Shane Davis,* cover artist.

And just how far-reaching will the ramifications of ***Flashpoint*** and its altered timeline be? "The fun part of ***Flashpoint*** is that it leads to this level of wild speculation" regarding changes to the DCU that will carry on after the series ends, executive editor *Eddie Berganza* said. "All I would say right now is that the speculation hasn't been *wild enough!* The last thing anyone should do is to hold back their imagination."

In addition, DC has revealed the titles and talent rosters for a quartet of ***Flashpoint*** related oneshots, also slated for June release. Those titles include:

•***Flashpoint: The Canterbury Cricket.*** "His power is his curse!" Creative team: *Mike Carlin,* writer; *Rags Morales,* artist & cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Green Arrow Industries.*** "He makes money from war!" Creative team: *Pomsak Pichetshote,* writer; *Mark Castiello,* artist; *Viktor Kalvachev,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Grodd of War.*** "Africa belongs to him!" Creative team: *Sean Ryan,* writer; *Ig Guara,* artist; *Francis Manapul,* cover artist.

•***Flashpoint: Reverse Flash.*** "He's more powerful than ever!" Creative team: *Scott Kolins,* writer; *Joel Gomez,* artist; *Ardian Syaf & Vicente Cifuentes,* cover artists.

SORRY, MORBIUS-- EVEN YOU CAN'T ESCAPE MY WEB!
MAYBE NOT, BUT HOW DO YOU KNOW--
--I CAN'T BREAK IT?
I'M GUESSIN' THAT WASN'T A RHETORICAL QUESTION?
RRIPPPT
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Furthermore, in June we see that there are at least *two* heroes who know that the DC Universe isn't what it used to be. In *Geoff Johns, Andy Kubert, & Sandra Hope's* ***Flashpoint #2,*** Barry Allen sets out on a mission to discover what happened to the world's greatest heroes or die trying—and that may be his fate as he tries to make lightning strike twice. Meanwhile, in *Dan Jurgens & Norm Rapmund's* ***Booster Gold #45,*** Booster is aware that the ***Flashpoint*** world isn't his own, but he's not quite sure how to make things right.

Fifteen limited series... four oneshots... one central title... one major tie-in series... yep, ***Flashpoint*** is going to make for one very eventful summer indeed!

Kirkman & Liefeld See Infinite Possibilities

USA Today reports that ***Walking Dead*** mastermind *Robert Kirkman* is teaming up with Image co-founder *Rob Liefeld* for a new series, ***The Infinite,*** slated to debut later this year through Kirkman's Skybound imprint, which is distributed by Image.

The series introduces Bowen, a grimly determined soldier from the post-apocalyptic future who time-travels into the present, where he teams with his nineteen-year-old self in order to defeat the world-conqueror "The Infinite," the time-travelling villain who made that future so post-apocalyptic.

USA Today reports that Kirkman and Liefeld have two issues in the can already, and intend to finish the first arc prior to the series' launch in late summer.

If the book runs late, Kirkman says that it's his fault, not Liefeld's. "I'm definitely the problem in that equation," Kirkman said, explaining that Liefeld is "always the one asking me, 'Hey, where's the plot at? I've gotta draw pages, what's going on?!' We're staying ahead so by the time the book launches it should be smooth sailing."

What can readers expect artistically when ***The Infinite*** debuts? Liefeld tells ***USA Today*** that Kirkman told him "'I want the ***X Force/Youngblood*** *Rob Liefeld*, OK? That's what I want!' I said, 'I'll give it to you!' And trust me, after drawing Deadpool for a year, you actually go, 'Do I remember how to draw a face again? I've drawn a guy in a mask for a year!'" Liefeld added that "I'm usually the most caffeinated about any project that I'm on, and he [Kirkman] puts me to shame."

CSNsider

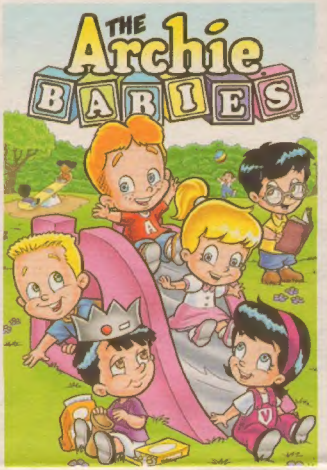
•Harvey Comics' not-so-spooky spook returns to comics this fall, courtesy of Ape Entertainment. ***Casper's Scare School*** is the title of the new series, which publisher *Brent Erwin* described as "classic Casper with a slightly contemporary spin." The series will be published under Ape's KiZoic imprint starting in October.

•*Nick Spencer* has signed an exclusive contract with Marvel Comics. While the contract won't affect his creator owned work such as ***Morning Glories*** or ***The Infinite Vacation*** from Image Comics, it will mean that readers shouldn't expect to see much more DC work appearing under his byline other than on ***T.H.U.N.D.E.R. Agents,*** which he will be allowed to continue writing.

•Marvel's *David Gabriel* has confirmed that ***Ultimate Spider-Man #160,*** *Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley's* landmark climax of "The Death of Spider-Man," will be polybagged when it arrives in stores in July. (Considering that Marvel's last polybagged book was ***Fantastic Four #587*** featuring the death of Johnny Storm, and that DC set this pattern with "The Death of Superman" in ***Superman #75*** almost two decades ago, perhaps we should refer to these as "bodybags" instead?...)

•At the Emerald City Comic Con, Marvel's *C.B. Cebulski* confirmed that *Garth Ennis* would be doing more work for Marvel in the near future, but he did not name the series that Ennis would be writing.

•Dark Horse is producing an original graphic novel, ***Falling Skies,*** based on the upcoming TNT series starring *Noah Wylie* from DreamWorks Television, executive produced by *Steven Spielberg, Greg Beeman,* and long-time comics scribe *Mark Verheiden*. The book focuses on history professor Tom Mason and his sons Hal, Matt, and Ben as they struggle to survive in devastated Boston in the aftermath of an alien invasion. After an extreme firefight with the aliens, Ben gets kidnapped. Determined to get his son back, Tom joins forces with the 2nd Mass, a militia group that is taking the fight against the aliens. But with the group's munitions supplies running low, Tom must locate an old friend to equip him and his team in order to ensure the survival of the human race! Written by *Paul Tobin* and illustrated by *Juan Ferreyra,* the graphic novel is slated for late July release.



•Archie Comics presents its first original graphic novel in June with the release of ***Archie Babies,*** written by *Mike Kunkel* and illustrated by *Art Mawhinney.* The series takes a look at the Riverdale gang as infants.

I WARN YOU, SPIDER-MAN! LEAVE--OR I'LL DESTROY YOU!
CAN'T GO! NOBODY'S SAFE WITH YOU AROUND!
THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE--
--BUT TO ATTACK!
HE'S TOO FAST-- COULDN'T EVADE HIM!
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STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-17

I'LL TEACH YOU THE FOLLY OF DEFYING MORBIUS!
HE'S TRYING TO BITE MY NECK!
SORRY, PAL--I'M SUPPOSED TO TAKE A BITE OUT OF CRIME--
--NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND!
WOW! HE NICKED ME AFTER ALL!
NOW WHAT?
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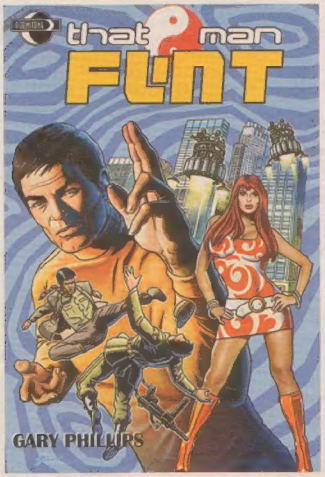
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 3-18

Readers will witness the development of lifelong relationships from the sandbox to the jungle gym as Baby Archie meets Baby Betty and Baby Veronica, makes friends with Baby Jughead, opens the book in Baby Dilton, and more. The 128-page OGN is priced at $9.95. (And if this does well, let's hope that it helps to pave the way for DC to bring back ***Sugar & Spike*** in an original series!...)



•Derek Flint, the superspy portrayed by *James Coburn* in the 1960's spy films ***Our Man Flint*** and ***In Like Flint***, is about to debut in his first-ever comic book series. ***That Man Flint #0***, produced by *Gary Phillips & Kevin Jones*, is described by publisher Moonstone Comics as "retro revisionist fare capturing the fun an excitement of halcyon espionage outings like ***The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*** and *Steranko's* ***Nick Fury*** for today's audience." Look for it in July.

•Dark Horse has announced that *Guy Davis* would be leaving as artist of ***BPRD*** so that he can focus on his creator-owned series ***The Marquis***. Davis will be replaced by artist *Tyler Crook*.

•DC editor-in-chief *Bob Harras* told panel attendees at Emerald City Comic Con that they could look forward to *Geoff Johns & Gary Frank's* ***Batman: Earth One*** later this year or early in 2012, while work is underway on the sequel to ***Superman: Earth One*** by *J. Michael Straczynski & Shane Davis*. "I actually saw pages yesterday from artist *Shane Davis*—it was awesome!" Harras said. He then revealed that "we have other ***Earth One*** series in the works, but I can't comment on them right now."

•*Bob Harras* also said that the rumor of ***DC Archives'*** demise was greatly exaggerated. "We *are* still doing ***Archives***," Harras said. "Maybe we're not doing as many as we've done in the past, but the program is still going on—it's not going away." Of course, we know that a ***Sugar and Spike Archives*** is in the works for release later this year, but no idea yet as to what will follow that.

•Work is underway on a followup to DC's ***Wednesday Comics***. "[Editor] *Mark Chiarello* is working with people right now to star the next wave," *Bob Harras* said, describing the as-yet-unnamed contributors as "on the same level of talent as in the first round."

•*Marv Wolfman* revealed that ***Teen Titans: Games***, the original graphic novel that he and *George Perez* began a quarter-century ago, will finally see print later this year. "I'm done. George is done. Inker *Mike Perkin* is two pages short. The lettering is all done and the coloring is almost completely done. This will definitely be out this fall—and I can tell you that George's work is the best I have ever seen from him!"

•*Mike Mignola* is slated to return to art duties on ***Hellboy;*** readers won't see his return to his best-known creation until early 2012, however, as Dark Horse wants to give Mignola plenty of time to work ahead before launching the Mignola-illustrated series.

•TokyoPop has announced further staff cutbacks, including longtime editors *Lillian Diaz-Przybyl* and *Troy Lewter*. The layoffs have come about largely as a result of the collapse of Borders Books, who owed TokyoPop huge amounts of money for previously-sold books.

•DC has cancelled their resolicitation orders on ***Batwoman #s 1 & 2***, and they will re-resolicit them later this year.

•DC has cancelled orders for ***Doc Savage: Lords of Lightning TP.*** The title will not be resolicited, so Doc Savage fans should latch onto those individual issues while they can find 'em!

•*Sean Chen* has replaced *Tom Raney* as the artist of ***Avengers Academy #14.***

•*Iban Coello Soria* has replaced *Harvey Tolibao* as artist of ***Silver Surfer #3.***

•***Throne of Blood—Birth of A Vampire*** has a new title—it's now known as ***Tomb of Dracula Presents Throne of Blood #1.***

Cartoon Books Throws Readers a Colorful Bone

Back in 2004, *Jeff Smith's* Cartoon Books made comics history with the single-volume compilation of the entire 1300+ page ***Bone*** saga in a single oversized edition (offered as a limited edition hardcover and a trade paperback). Later this year, history repeats itself—with a colorful change!

To celebrate ***Bone's*** twentieth anniversary, Cartoon will offer a single-volume *full color* collection of the series. The book will be offered this summer in an limited 2000-copy slipcased signed ***Bone 20th Anniversary Full Color One-Volume Collector's Box Set.*** This set will include a signed and numbered 6" x 9" art print of a previously unpublished piece of Bone concept art, a 22k gold-plated coin with Phoney Bone's head on one side, and Fone Bone on the other, pewter figures of the three Bone cousins, a miniature facsimile of the black and white ***Bone #1*** as originally published in July of 1991, an expanded cover gallery of the ***Bone*** comic books and graphic novels, an illustrated timeline, and the award-winning documentary DVD, ***The Cartoonist: Jeff Smith, Bone, and the Changing Face of Comics***. In addition, Cartoon Books will offer an ultra-limited fifty-copy edition of the ***Box Set*** that will include a piece of original art by *Jeff Smith* hand-colored by *Steve Hamaker.*

A few months later, Cartoon will offer an unlimited hardcover edition, priced at $150, which comes with a full-color slipcase and adds a thirty-two page section that includes the new "Twenty Years With Bone" essay, the ***Bone*** comics cover gallery, and the illustrated twenty-year timeline. Look for that edition in November.

Back to Press

•***Li'l Depressed Boy #1 2nd Printing*** (JAN118081), in stores this week.

Image Ventures Into the Deadlands

A quartet of oneshots based on the award-winning ***Deadlands*** role-playing game are in the works, courtesy of Visionary Comics, Pinnacle Entertainment, and publisher Image Comics.

Deadlands will debut with four oneshots, running from June through September; each oneshot will feature stand-alone front feature stories by such Western-horror talents as *David Gallaher, Steve Ellis, Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, Lee Moder, Ron Marz, Bart Sears, Steve Niles, Francesco Francavilla,* and *Michael Atiyeh*. In addition, each oneshot will also include one chapter of a four-part backup tale. Look for the first book in late June.

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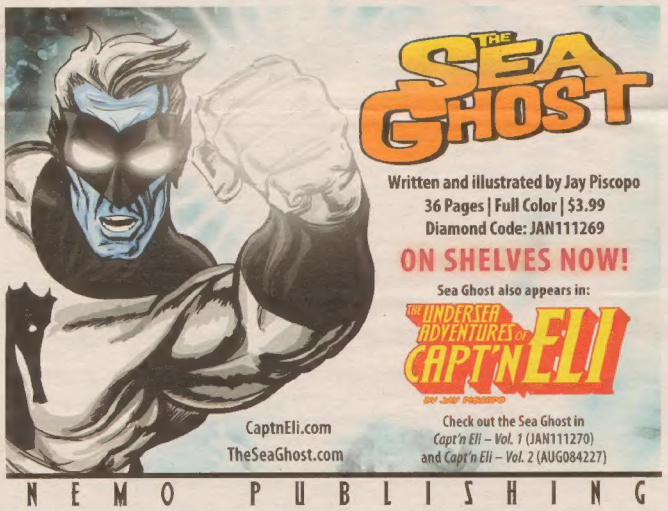
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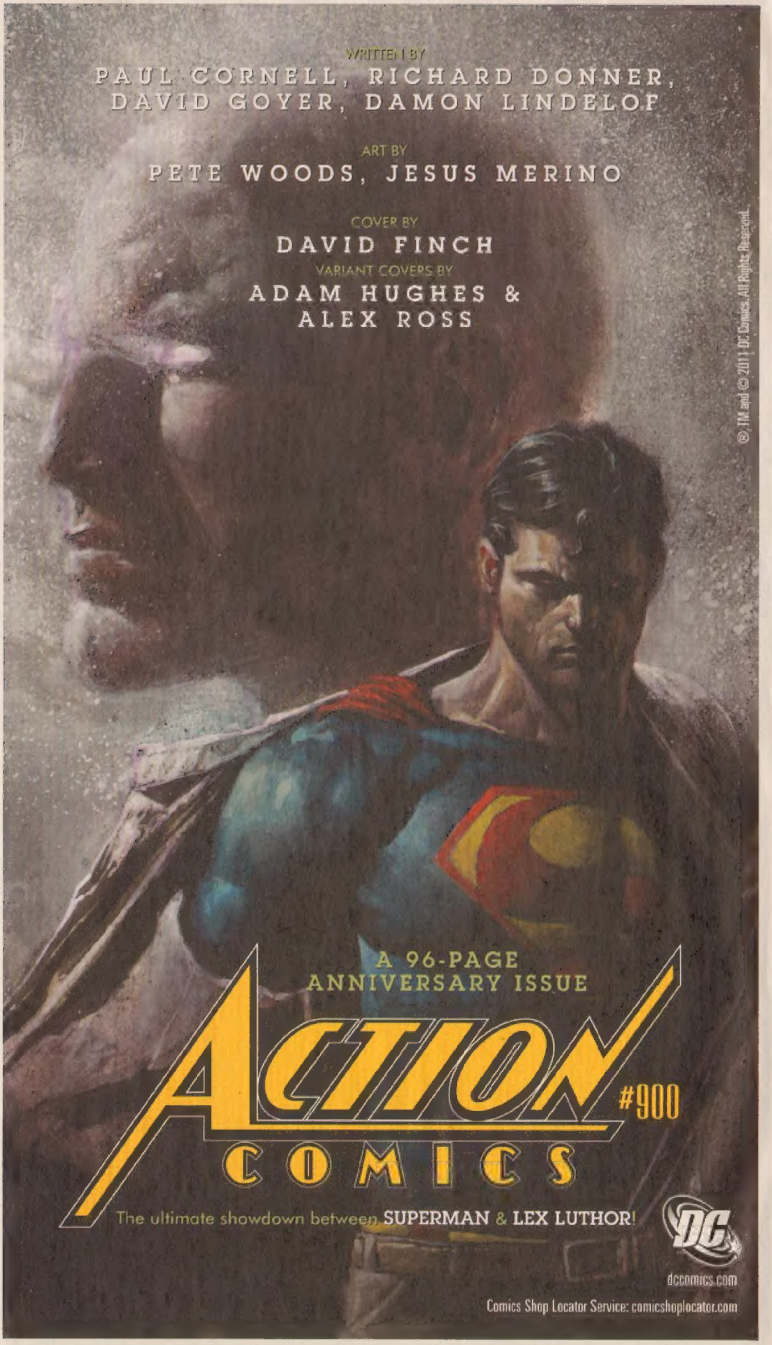

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